

EXHIBIT 9  
DATE 3/26/09  
SB 164

Senate Bill 164  
March 26, 2009  
Presented by Chas Van Genderen  
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chas Van Genderen, Acting Parks Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP stands in conditional support of Senate Bill 164, based on amendments we have been working on with Senator Barrett. Unfortunately, we cannot state that we are in full agreement yet but, in the spirit of cooperation, we are working with together and feel we are headed in the proper direction.

FWP may disagree with Senator Barrett on how we rate the job staff are doing as managers of land. We may also disagree on whether or not FWP should be buying land. But where we do agree, unconditionally, is that if we own the land we need to manage it well. With a few amendments, we feel that SB 164 can help us achieve even better management than the good work we do today.

In summary, FWP is managing its lands well and may supports SB 164 if it helps us manage even better. Based on the amendments proposed in this testimony we think this bill may help achieve that. We support SB 164 with amendments.